
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Bruzzese et al.

Attorney Docket No.: IGT1P145/P-267 DIV CIP

Application No.: 10/817,156

Examiner: William Freeman

Filed: April 2, 2004

Group: 3709

Title: GAMING MACHINE
COMMUNICATING SYSTEM

Confirmation No.: 1189

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Signed: /swx/

Susan W. Xu

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The undersigned thanks the Examiner and Supervisory Examiner for granting the telephonic-interview conducted on May 24, 2007. Contrary to the statement made in the interview summary dated June 05, 2007, it is respectfully submitted that the undersigned did not state during the interview that U.S. Patent No. 6,448,585 (*Wells et al.*) teaches the limitations of claim 1 except a hand held portable transponder. Instead, the undersigned reiterated that the Examiner's rejection is improper by making specific reference to the section of U.S. Patent No. 6,448,585 (*Wells et al.*) which is the basis of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1:

"each of said gaming machines includes a communication module connected to a master gaming controller of each said gaming machine whereby identification and control signals for a specific one or more of said plurality of gaming machines can be input to, and sent from, said transponder to the master gaming controller of the selected gaming machines and in reply thereto, status data of said selected gaming machines can be sent to, or overwritten by, said transponder." (Office Action, page 6, citing Col. 4, lines 24-36 of *Wells et al.*).

For the Examiner's convenience, the pertinent section of *Wells et al.* is reproduced below.

"Although it is possible to combine numerous functions onto a given board, typically numerous boards will be provided in a gaming terminal for forming a plurality of functions. In the depicted embodiment, the game controller board communicates with a communications board 124 which provides information to and, receives information from a local controller 114a and/or central computer 116, for purposes such as monitoring use and performance, assuring compliance, performing accounting and similar functions, and facilitating implementation of progressive or other multi-terminal based games or prizes. In one embodiment, the communications board 124 includes one or more ports by which a laptop 128 or other computer may be coupled to the gaming terminal 112a for, among other purposes, downloading as described more fully below" (*Wells et al.*, Col. 4, lines 24-36).

During the interview, it was respectfully requested that the Examiner withdrawn the rejection or provide a specific reference to U.S. Patent No. 6,448,585 (*Wells et al.*) that supports the Examiner's rejection of claim 1. It is earnestly believed that the Examiner believes that these features are somehow "inherent" in the mere act of downloading performed by the laptop 128 of *Wells et al.* The undersigned respectfully submitted that the mere act of downloading in itself does not inherently teach nor even remotely suggest: control signals for one or more gaming machines that can be input to, and sent to, and in reply thereto, status data of the gaming machine(s) can be sent to or overwritten (claim 1).

It was further submitted that the dependent claims recite features that render them patentable for additional reasons. In particular, claim 5 was discussed. Claim 5 recites that the control signal determines which game is able to be played. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion made in the Office Action, it was respectfully submitted that *Itkis* does not teach this claimed feature (see page 11 of the Office Action). Instead, *Itkis* teaches that "[t] the slave game device receives commands and random data, such as bingo patterns and called bingo and keno numbers, from the master game device and sends the local game status and accounting information to the master game device" (*Itkis*, Abstract). According, it was respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claim 5 is clearly improper for this additional reason.

It is believed that no fee is due in association with filing of this Summary of Interview. Should any fee be due in connection with the filing of this paper or for this application in general, then the commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee or fees to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P145). Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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